



July 31, 2019

Office of
The Archbishop
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-421-3131 Ext. 2810

Dear Family of St. Ignatius Parish,

Effective immediately, I am appointing Deacon Tim Helmick as temporary administrator of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish. Deacon Tim will have all of the administrative authority of a pastor until such time as a permanent pastor is identified and appointed. Father Dave Kobak, OFM, will continue as parochial vicar and minister to the pastoral needs of the parish. I am deeply grateful to both Deacon Tim and Father Dave for their dedication and caring service to the people of St. Ignatius.

On Tuesday, July 23, I placed Father Geoff Drew on a leave of absence due to behavior that violated our *Decree on Child Protection*. Father Drew will not be returning to St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish. Father Drew will soon undergo a complete physical, psychological and spiritual assessment at an independent in-patient treatment facility. That assessment, along with the recommendations of the professionals treating Father Drew, will be provided to me as input for deciding the appropriate next steps.

We have received no allegation of criminal behavior on the part of Father Drew. We are committed to investigating fully any allegations, criminal or otherwise, that we receive. If you know of, or learn of anything, suspicious or criminal regarding Father Drew, please report it to Mr. Mark Piepmeier at the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Piepmeier may be reached directly at 513-946-3078 or mark.piepmeier@hcpros.org.

I am acutely aware of the pain and distress that you rightfully feel due to this matter, and for that I am deeply sorry. Please know of my prayers during this very difficult and stressful time for the St. Ignatius family, and for all of us. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the Catholic Church in the United States, continue to intercede for us. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish

5222 North Bend Road • Cincinnati, Ohio 45247 • Phone 513-661-6565

August 2, 2019

To the St. Ignatius Church and School Families,

The events of this past week are overwhelming and very hard to process without feelings of anger, abandonment, betrayal and countless other emotions.

The parish staff, both church and school, recognize the hurt and hardship that have overshadowed our entire community. We are all suffering and perhaps we can unite our pain with Christ's suffering on the cross to emerge stronger out of this predicament.

I want to assure all of you that until the accusation that surfaced from a St. Ignatius Family in late June, no member of the church and school staff had any knowledge of this situation-- including any other accusations, on monitoring and restrictions on Fr. Geoff's interactions with children. We were all caught by surprise.

We want to be as transparent as possible, so please contact us with any questions or concerns. We are here for you and your families.

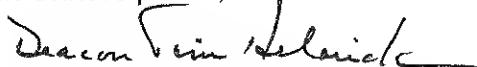
As a faith community we will grow stronger as a result of this hardship. But it will take time. Coming together through the Eucharist on the path toward healing will unite us with Christ.

We want to rebuild and re-earn your trust in our St. Ignatius family because we know that trust has been shaken and challenged. We will be working on ways to help the St. Ignatius community to heal and move forward and will keep you informed when we receive new information. In the meantime, we are providing the enclosed resource from the school psychologist that may be helpful to parents when speaking with their children. She also recommends this link <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/talking-to-children>.

I realize that my wife and I have only been a part of this faith community for the past 11 months and may be strangers to some of you. But from our first week in the parish all of you have been incredibly welcoming and we are profoundly blessed to call St. Ignatius our parish.

Archbishop Schnurr requested and appointed me to be the Temporary Administrator of the parish until a permanent pastor is identified and assigned. When I was ordained on April 24, 2010, I promised an oath of obedience to the Archbishop. I feel very humbled that he asked me to take on such an important task. Believe me, this chapter in my ministry was not anywhere on my radar. I promise to do my best to ensure a smooth transition during this difficult period of time for the church and school staff. Please keep Father Dave, your Deacons and the church and school staff in your prayers. Be assured that all of you are in our prayers.

In Christ's peace,



Deacon Tim Helmick